United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

Soil Treatment Continues at Baker Wood Creosoting Site

Marion, Ohio July 2000

This fact sheet:

- **describes the progress of the soil cleanup.**
- **outlines U.S. EPA's upcoming priorities.**
- **lists sources for further information.**

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has returned to the Baker Wood Creosoting Site in Marion, Ohio, to continue treating creosote-contaminated soil. Over the winter months, the treatment technology, called bioremediation, worked naturally on piles of soil stored on site. U.S. EPA will continue this soil cleanup through fall. U.S. EPA will also continue to address contamination in the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch.

SOIL CLEANUP

The active mixing of nutrients with 2,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil began in May and will continue through summer and fall. The soil is mixed weekly with the nutrients, which consist of liquid fertilizer and water. Naturally occurring microorganisms will use the contamination as "food." The nutrients act as another food source for the microorganisms to speed up the breakdown from hazardous substances to non-hazardous substances. Samples are collected every four to six weeks to ensure that the breakdown, or biodegradation, of contamination is occurring as planned. The bioremediation process could take another 18 months to complete.

As the soil treatment phase winds down, U.S. EPA should begin evaluating cleanup options for the lower-level contamination remaining on the Baker Wood property.

LITTLE SCIOTO RIVER, NORTH ROCKSWALE DITCH ASSESSMENTS

While the bioremediation process worked on its own, U.S. EPA completed assessments of the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch. Results indicate that about 4 miles of the river and a half mile of the ditch are contaminated with creosote-related compounds such as poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The heaviest amount of contamination in the river is in a 2-mile stretch beginning at the Holland Road bridge and going downstream (south). Based on these results, U.S. EPA will estimate what resources such as technologies, equipment and personnel, as well as the cost to clean up this contamination. This information should be available by early August. Then, recommendations can be made on how to address the contamination in the river and ditch.

Samples are collected every four to six weeks to ensure that the breakdown, or biodegradation, of the contamination is occurring as expected.

NEXT STEPS

U.S. EPA will continue to keep the community informed about progress made at the Baker Wood Creosoting Site. Soil samples will be taken regularly on site. This will involve collecting "composites" from each of seven rows (piles) of soil. Composites are smaller samples that are blended together. The entire process includes taking composites from the rows using specially cleaned hand trowels, mixing the samples together and placing the mixture in a specialized jar. The jars are then sent to a U.S. EPA-approved laboratory.

Although the gate to the site will be unlocked so vehicles may enter and exit throughout the day, it will be locked overnight. Trespassing on a federal Superfund site is a serious offense. Nearby residents are encouraged to report trespassers to the Marion County Sheriff's Police Department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about the Baker Wood Creosoting Site or would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:

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As reports are developed in relation to the cleanup, they will be placed in an Administrative Record file at the Marion Public Library, 445 East Church Street, Marion. The Administrative Record file will contain detailed information upon which cleanup decisions will be based.

A copy of this fact sheet and others can be downloaded from the EPA Region 5 website at http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites.

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